

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Match the words (1-3) with their meanings (A-C).

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | widow | A | a person who is not free |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | slave | B | afraid, frightened |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | scared | C | a woman whose husband is dead |

SLAVES

Slavery was practiced in the South of the United States of America during the 17th, 18th and part of the 19th centuries. Black slaves were brought from Africa and sold at slave markets. These slaves worked on the cotton and sugar plantations in the southern states. They belonged to the plantation owner and he could sell them whenever he wanted to.

PRELIMINARY

2 LISTENING

Listen to Chapter One and choose the correct answer—A, B or C.

- Who does Tom Sawyer live with?
A Miss Watson
B Aunt Polly
C Widow Douglas
- Who does Huck Finn live with?
A Judge Thatcher
B His father
C Widow Douglas
- What are Huck Finn's clothes like?
A uncomfortable
B comfortable
C old and ugly
- Whose footprints did Huck see in the garden?
A Tom Sawyer's
B Judge Thatcher's
C His father's
- Who is Jim?
A Tom's brother
B Miss Watson's black slave
C Huck's father



CHAPTER ONE

Huck and his friends



My name is Huckleberry Finn and I live on the Mississippi River in a small town called St Petersburg. My good friend Tom Sawyer lives there, too, and we have a lot of exciting adventures together. We never get bored because we're friends with Joe Harper, Ben Rogers and two or three other boys here in St Petersburg. We all belong to the Tom Sawyer Gang that meets by the river and does all kinds of fun things. Sometimes we take somebody's boat and go down the river to Jackson's Island. Other times we just go fishing, swimming or climbing trees. We always have fun together.

Tom lives with his Aunt Polly and I live with the Widow Douglas and her sister, Miss Watson. I have to live with them because my mother's dead and nobody knows where my father is. He never worked and he was always drunk.¹

1. **drunk** : when a person had a lot of alcohol to drink and behaves strangely.

Before I came to live with Widow Douglas and her sister I didn't have a home, so I was outdoors most of the time and no one told me what to do. But now the two women always tell me what to do and I don't like it. I have to wear new clothes that are uncomfortable and I have to be polite at the dinner table. And sometimes I have to listen to Widow Douglas read stories to me.

Widow Douglas always says, "Go to school, Huck! It's good for you. You must learn to read, write and spell."

I've never liked school, because it's difficult, but I'm slowly learning a few things, like math.

Miss Watson, who's a thin woman with glasses, always says, "Don't put your feet up there! Sit up straight! Do your spelling lessons, Huck!"

Widow Douglas says my behavior is improving, and she always tells the truth.

I'm just a boy but I've got a lot of money, because Tom and I found \$12,000 in a cave once. It's ours now and we each have \$6,000. A man called Judge Thatcher is keeping the money for me since I'm still a boy. He's a good, honest man.

I know that my father wants my money, so it's a good thing he isn't here. When he lived here he often beat me and I ran to the woods and hid there. My life was much better without my father.

However, one day my father returned and that's when my new adventures started.

One winter morning after breakfast I went into the garden and was very surprised. I saw my father's big footprints² in the snow. I knew those footprints well and I was scared. I didn't know what to do – I needed help.

2. footprint :



2 GRAMMAR – PRESENT PERFECT

Complete the sentences with *ever* or *never* and the correct form of the verbs in the box.

have learn travel see buy talk

- 1 Is Judge Thatcher a friendly man? I don't know, I've to him.
- 2 Did you enjoy your vacation in the mountains? It was the best vacation I've
- 3 Huck doesn't like reading, so he's a book at Mr Karl's bookshop.
- 4 Has Aunt Polly to New York City by train?
- 5 Jim has to read and write, because slaves don't go to school.
- 6 Look at the *Natchez*! It's the biggest steamboat we've

3 WORD SQUARE

A	S	A	V	O	U	H	K	R	O	M	E	D	C
R	J	U	D	G	E	T	H	A	T	C	H	E	R
W	B	N	S	O	B	A	K	G	H	B	C	D	S
E	O	T	F	R	C	L	P	E	I	F	O	I	G
F	X	P	M	I	S	S	W	A	T	S	O	N	B
V	N	O	W	M	G	F	I	M	K	A	B	D	I
U	I	L	D	R	D	S	I	D	M	V	E	T	J
K	C	L	E	P	F	J	I	M	N	W	A	P	Y
R	K	Y	F	V	I	K	V	A	O	B	C	D	O
E	W	I	D	O	W	D	O	U	G	L	A	S	Z
S	M	A	T	D	G	M	C	H	E	P	U	O	A
N	C	I	T	S	E	B	T	P	C	A	S	G	F

Find the names of the five adults in Chapter One and circle them. Use the names to complete the sentences below.

- 1 is thin and wears glasses.
- 2 looks after Tom Sawyer.
- 3 tells Huck to go to school.
- 4 is a good and honest man.
- 5 has a magic ball made of animal hair.



America's Great River: The Mississippi

4 When Mark Twain was a boy he lived on the Mississippi River and he had a lot of fun adventures here. Many of his novels and short stories take place on this river, which is a symbol of America.

This great river is born in Lake Itasca, in Minnesota, and it goes down to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi is about 2,300 miles long (3,700 km). Although the longest river in America is the Missouri River, about 2,500 miles long (4,000 km), the biggest and deepest river with the most water is the Mississippi. The name Mississippi comes from the Indian words "Misi" and "Sipi" which mean *big water*.

In the past many American Indian tribes lived on the Mississippi: the Fox, Winnebago, Ojibwa, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Natchez and Yazoo. They traveled on the big river in their canoes¹ for centuries. Hernando de Soto, a Spanish explorer of the 1500s, was the first white man to see and explore the Mississippi, and the French were the first white people

1. canoe : 